

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY FOR THE PROPOSED  
CROWNE RIDGE APARTMENT PROJECT IN  
CENTRAL ANGELINA COUNTY, TEXAS**



Brazos Valley Research Associates  
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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY FOR THE PROPOSED  
CROWNE RIDGE APARTMENT PROJECT IN  
CENTRAL ANGELINA COUNTY, TEXAS

BVRA Project Number 10-08

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## **ABSTRACT**

On April 8, 2010, Brazos Valley Research Associates (BVRA) performed a cultural resources survey on a 14.675-acre tract in central Angelina County where Davis Penn Mortgage Company plans to construct an apartment complex using funding from Housing and Urban Development. The heavily wooded project area was investigated through a 100% Pedestrian Survey and shovel testing. Twelve shovel tests revealed a sandy loam that varied in depth from 10 cm to 100 cm with much of the sandy loam over wet sandy clay. Much of the area had been disturbed by logging activities. No archaeological sites were found, and no artifacts were collected. BVRA recommends that construction be allowed to proceed as planned. Copies of the report are on file at the Texas Historical Commission (THC), Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL), Texas State Library, BVRA, and the client.

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## **DEFINITION OF STUDY AREA**

The project area consists of a 14.675-acre tract in central Angelina County where the client intends to construct an apartment complex (Figure 1). The apartments will provide housing for low-income individuals, and it will be funded by Housing and Urban Development. The site is in a heavily wooded area that slopes gradually to the east and is 270-300 feet above mean sea level. The nearest major stream is Moccasin Creek, approximately 1000 meters to the south. There is a minor drainage that passes through the extreme eastern edge of project area. This tract is viewed as a low probability area for the presence of a significant prehistoric site due to its distance to a major stream. The project area is bounded on the east by Farm-to-Market Road 819, and the other boundaries are within a larger 608-acre tract that is privately owned. The project area is depicted on the Lufkin 7.5' topographic quadrangle (3194-242) (Figure 2). This is a Section 106 project that does not require an Antiquities Permit.

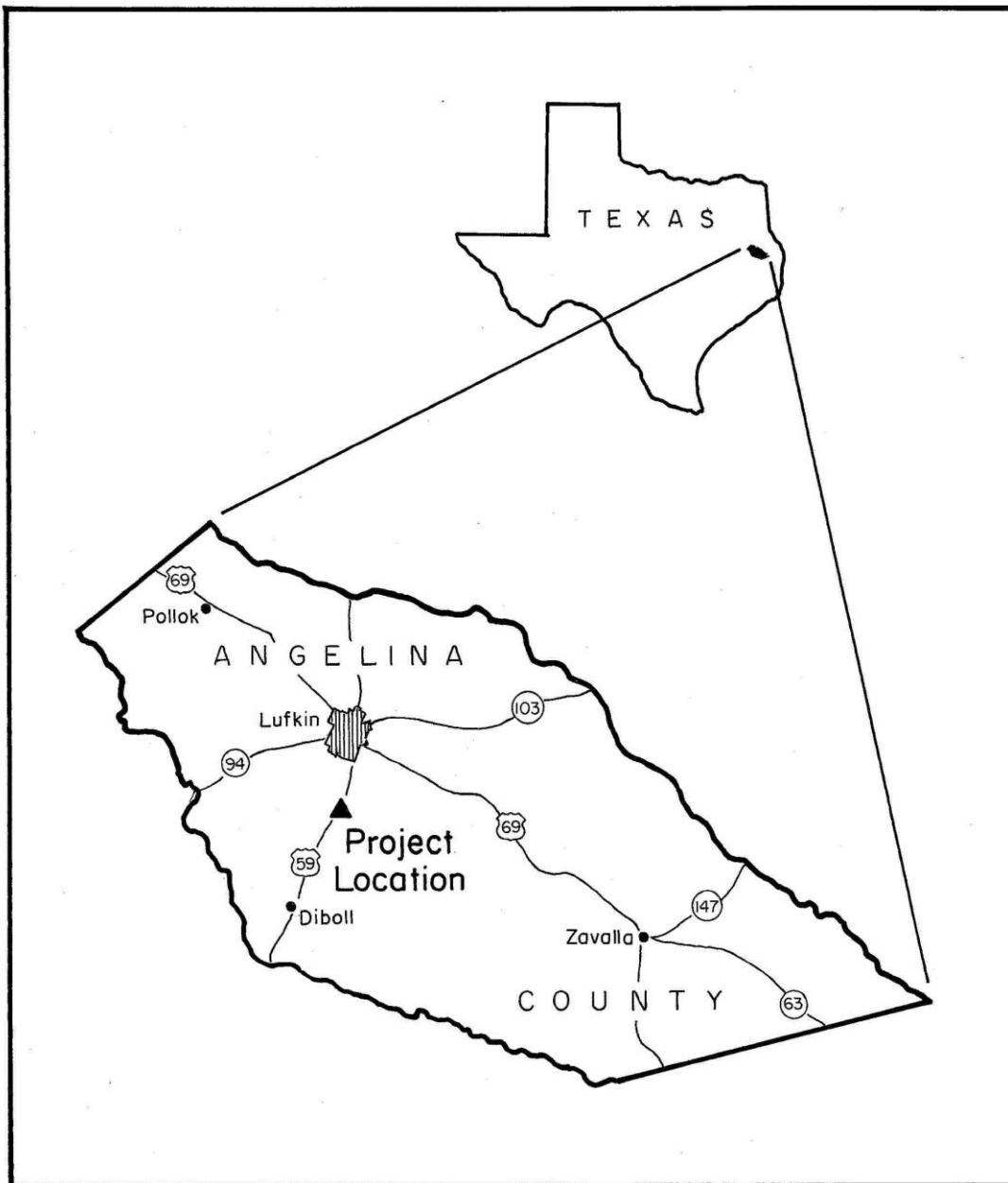


Figure 1. General Location

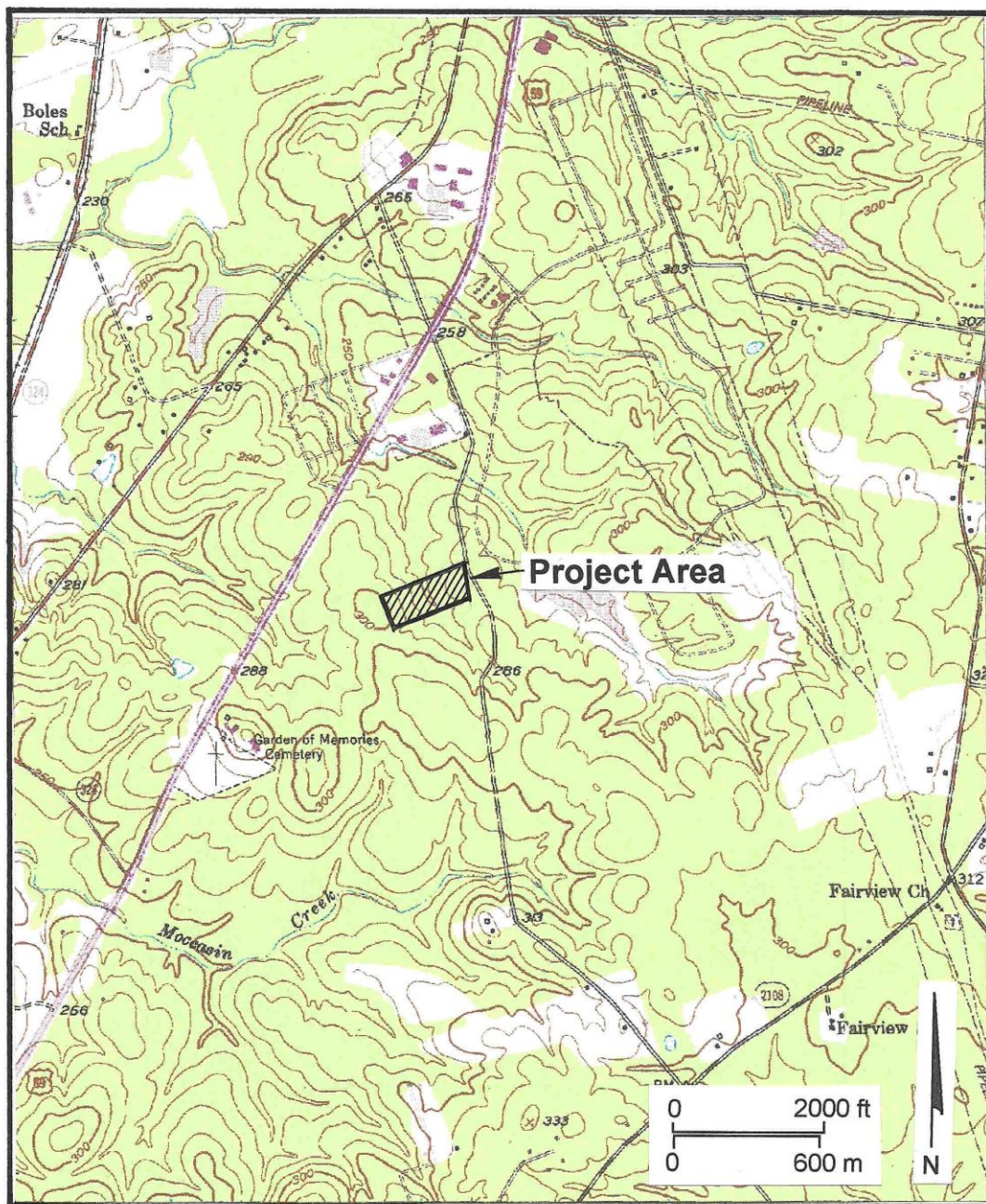


Figure 2. Project Area on Topographic Quadrangle

## **MANAGEMENT SUMMARY**

This project was performed in order to identify any cultural resources that might be present within the proposed 14.675-acre tract. Davis Penn Mortgage of Houston, Texas is the client. The map submitted to the THC contained a larger 608-acre tract that is drained by Moccasin Creek. The THC responded by requesting an archaeological survey. However, the 14.675-acre project area is viewed as an unlikely setting for a prehistoric site. Since the client did not have time to wait for the THC to complete a second review, the decision was made to proceed with an archaeological survey of the area discussed in this report. The client retained BVRA to conduct the current archaeological survey. The Principal Investigator was William E. Moore, and Phillip C. Bishop performed the field survey. The project was carried out on April 8, 2010 and involved eight person hours.



## **METHODS**

Prior to entering the field, the site records at TARL and the Atlas were checked for the presence of previously recorded archaeological sites and projects in the project area and vicinity. Relevant archaeological reports documenting work in Angelina County were reviewed in order to become familiar with the types of prehistoric and historic sites found in the area. Some of the major works utilized are reports by Biesart et al. (1985), Fields (1979), Ippolito (1983), and Kenmotsu and Perttula (1993). The project area was investigated by a 100% Pedestrian Survey and shovel tests within the footprint of the proposed apartment complex (Figure 3). The twelve shovel tests were excavated at all four corners of the project area, adjacent to the minor drainage, and randomly across the remainder of the tract. Photographs of the project area were taken with a digital camera.

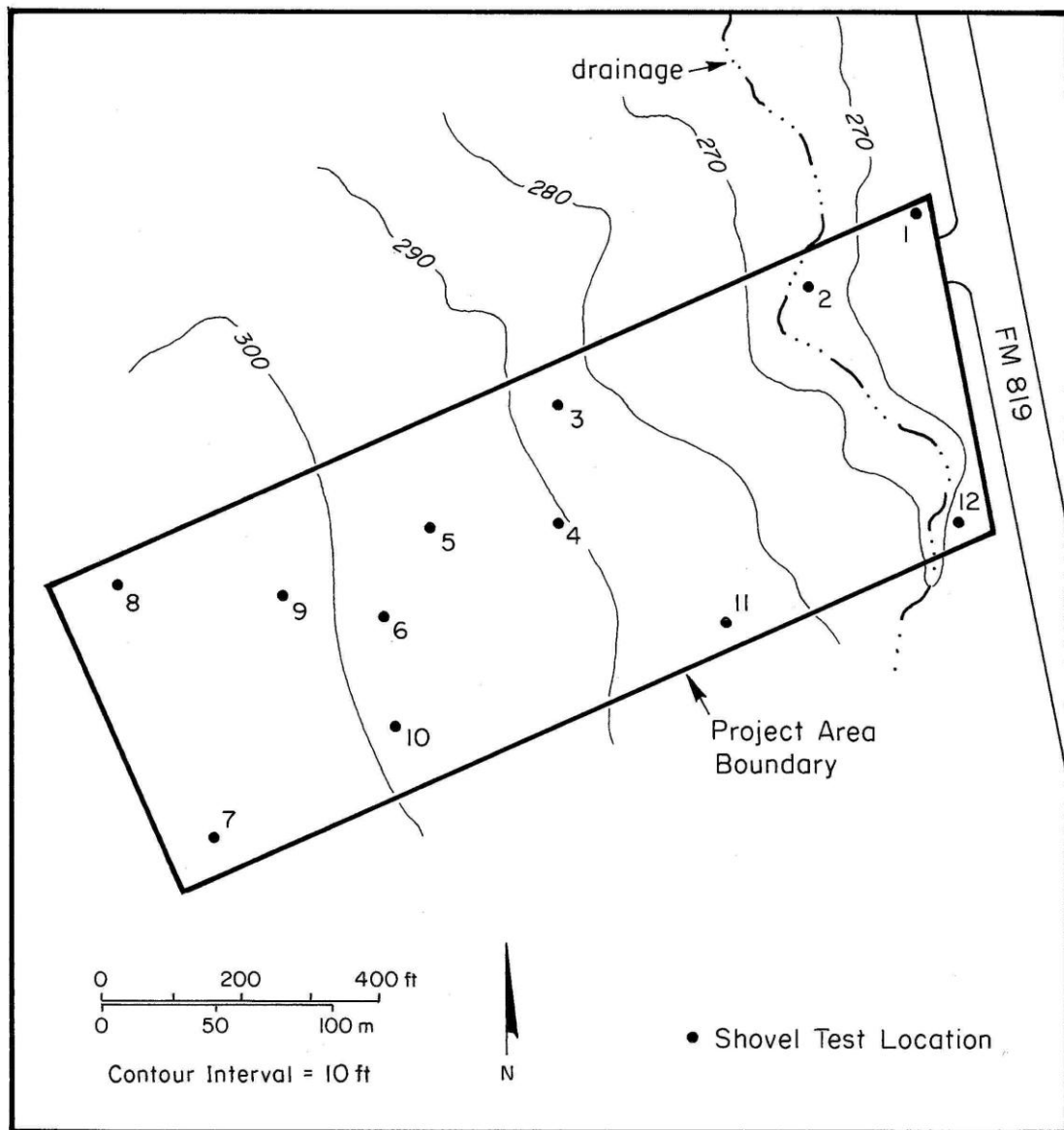


Figure 3. Shovel Tests in Project Area

## **RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS**

Examination of the files at TARL in Austin, Texas and the Atlas revealed no sites have been recorded in the project area, and a professional archaeologist had not previously examined the tract. No archaeological sites were found during the course of this survey. At the time of this survey, the area was heavily wooded (Figure 4), and the soils encountered consisted of sandy loam over wet sandy clay. According to the published soil survey for Angelina County (Dolezel 1988), the project area is located within the soil type described as Alazan very fine sandy loam, 0 to 4 percent slopes, and this appears to be consistent with what was observed in the field. This soil is described as a deep to nearly level gently sloping soil on terraces and uplands throughout the county. The surface layer is sandy loam to a depth of 16 inches, and the subsoil is loam and clay loam. This soil has a high available water capacity and is somewhat poorly drained. Disturbance in the inland portion of the project area observed consisted of stumps and cutover areas that are evidence of past logging activities. Fireplugs and a culvert at the eastern edge of the project area adjacent to the farm-to-market road are an indication of disturbance at least 100 feet from the edge of the road that are probably associated with utilities along the road. The absence of a prehistoric site is attributed to the shallow, wet soils and distance (1000 meters) to the nearest major stream. The stream in the project area was very small and insignificant (Figure 5).



Figure 4. View of Project Area





Figure 5. Stream in Project Area

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the absence of archaeological sites in the project area, it is recommended that construction of the Crowne Ridge Apartments be allowed to proceed as planned. It is always possible that archaeological sites are missed during any archaeological survey. Should evidence of a prehistoric or historic site in the project area be discovered during construction, all work in this area should cease immediately until the Texas Historical Commission can evaluate the situation. This survey was conducted according to the Minimum Survey Standards as outlined by the Texas Historical Commission, Archeology Division.

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## APPENDIX I: SHOVEL TEST LOG

Shovel Test	Depth (cm)	Comments (all tests were negative)
01	10	test not dug due to disturbance by public utilities
02	100	test dug on the north side of a minor drainage
03	50	test dug on south side of a minor drainage and terminated due to clay
04	45	test dug on a broad flat landform south of a minor drainage and terminated due to clay
05	55	test dug on a broad flat landform south of a minor drainage and terminated due to wet sandy clay
06	60	test dug on broad flat landform south of a minor drainage in an area disturbed by logging activities and terminated due to wet sandy clay
07	50	test dug on broad flat landform south of a minor drainage in an area disturbed by logging activities and terminated due to wet sandy clay
08	65	test dug on a knoll in an area disturbed by logging activities and terminated due to wet sandy clay
09	40	test dug on a knoll in an area disturbed by logging activities and terminated due to wet sandy clay
10	50	test dug on a terrace along the west side of a small drainage and terminated due to wet sandy clay
11	40	test dug on a finger ridge on the southwest side of a minor drainage and terminated due to wet sandy clay
12	40	test dug on an elevated terrace along a minor drainage near Farm-to-Market Road 819 in the southeast corner of the project area and terminated at 40 cm due to wet clay.